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Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Summary

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 50/166.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women is a global, multilateral, grant-making mechanism established in 1996 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/166. It is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. UN-Women provides the Trust Fund with a strong institutional foundation and field support through its regional, multi-country and country offices. The Trust Fund supports and strengthens the work of UN-Women to prevent and address violence against women and girls and works closely with the rest of the United Nations system through the members of its Programme Advisory Committee.[1] Working in synergy with UN-Women, other United Nations agencies and members of the Programme Advisory Committee, the Trust Fund plays a vital role in driving forward collective efforts that engage the wider community — women and men, girls and boys. The Trust Fund continues to ensure that its work integrates the Framework for Action of the Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women.

2. The Trust Fund is exclusively dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms. It supports national, regional and cross-regional initiatives that work to systematically prevent, address, respond to and, with persistence, eliminate this global pandemic. To date, the Trust Fund has awarded $103 million to 393 initiatives in 136 countries and territories. Its current portfolio consists of 95 grants for projects in 75 countries and territories, for a total value of $56,311,108.

3. A commitment to and strategic implementation of a results-driven resource mobilization strategy enabled the Trust Fund to significantly increase its overall resources for grant making in 2014 and meet its target of raising $15 million. The financial contributions and political support of a range of partners were critical to the Trust Fund's success.

4. As of December 2014, the Governments of Australia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had contributed to the Trust Fund's eighteenth grant-making cycle. Zonta International and the UN Women for Peace Association continued to support Trust Fund initiatives. The Trust Fund also received support from Benetton as well as the UN Women National Committees of Finland, Iceland, Japan and Switzerland.

[1] In 2014, Programme Advisory Committee members at the global and regional levels included: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Population Fund; Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict; World Health Organization; World Food Programme; World Bank. Leading civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels — including representatives from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Equality Now, and the International Organization for Migration — were also actively involved in the grant-making process.

5. The Trust Fund focuses its funding on three priority programme areas: preventing violence against women and girls; expanding survivors' access to support services; and strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans. The Trust Fund has also created three special Thematic Windows to support global learning initiatives. Each of the Windows groups together grantees working on similar types of interventions in the areas of: violence against women in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings; the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women and girls; and violence against adolescent girls. In addition to giving sustained visibility to these issues, the Thematic Windows help to identify good and promising practices and generate knowledge about effective methods of and approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls.

6. The present report, prepared for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, describes the impact and achievements of the Trust Fund in 2014.

II. Context

7. The World Health Organization estimates that one in three women worldwide will experience either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in her lifetime.[2] The most common form of violence experienced by women is intimate partner violence; a global study on homicide found that almost half of female homicide victims are killed by members of their family or intimate partners, whereas the equivalent figure for male victims is just over one fifth.[3] Current economic crises have exacerbated women's economic disadvantage and subsequent cutbacks in social spending on health and education have increased women's risk of exploitation and violence (see A/HRC/26/39).

8. The Trust Fund recognizes that violence against women and girls can often be directly linked to their lack of economic empowerment and that precarious and disadvantaged economic situation can further facilitate women's exploitation or abuse by partners, relatives, employers, and others in their communities. It can also prevent women and girls from escaping violence and building new lives for themselves and their families. To truly transform the existing social beliefs, practices and cultural models that fuel violence, it is necessary to address and bring to an end the multiple and interconnected disadvantages, including all forms of discrimination and exclusion that girls and women experience worldwide.

9. The year 2015 will be a critical juncture for future efforts to end violence against women and girls. Discussions about the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, and debates surrounding the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), will provide a pivotal opportunity to reposition the issue of violence against women and girls and ensure that it is placed at the centre of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In this context, the United Nations Trust Fund is more determined than ever to support the

[2] World Health Organization, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council, *Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013).

[3] *Global Study on Homicide 2013* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 14.IV.1).

implementation of national and international commitments by Member States and their translation into real changes in the lives of women and girls.

III. Trust Fund grantee achievements in 2014

10. The sustainability both of the programmes themselves and of the improvements in the lives of women and girls that they bring about, is a key criterion for the Trust Fund in assessing its long-term impact. This in turn depends on building capacity among grantees to determine the effectiveness of initiatives and methodologies and to sustain them beyond the life of the grant. In 2014, one of the Trust Fund's key annual capacity-building and monitoring initiatives, its development workshop for new grantees, was held in Turkey in March. The event aimed at enabling the 17 grantee organizations that attended to implement, monitor and evaluate their projects more effectively and in line with the Trust Fund's vision. In addition, it provided grantees with a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge and share experiences and promising practices.

11. Drawing on the United Nations Trust Fund monitoring missions implemented this year, annual evaluation reports from grantees and discussions with partners and donors, the present report highlights Trust Fund grantee results in the following areas: preventing violence against young and adolescent girls through leadership development and education; implementing laws and policies to respond effectively to violence against women and girls; advancing transitional justice and addressing violence against women and girls in emergency settings; and engaging the private sector in prevention and response efforts.

12. Throughout 2014, the Trust Fund undertook extensive monitoring missions to 13 countries in four regions in order to validate the results and effectiveness of Trust Fund-supported programmes. The Trust Fund visited seven grantees from Eastern Europe and Central Asia in six countries (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine); seven grantees from Asia in three countries (Cambodia, China and Thailand); four grantees from Africa in two countries (Nigeria and Uganda); and two grantees from the Caribbean (Belize and Grenada). These missions included meetings with grantee organizations, partner organizations, primary and secondary beneficiaries and key stakeholders and visits to key project sites.

13. In 2014, the implementation of Trust Fund programmes benefited over 1 million women, girls, men and boys. In total, over 700,000 women and girls were involved in programme activities, including 89,802 survivors of violence, 38,102 women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and 4,385 women human rights defenders. In addition, Trust Fund-supported programmes engaged 208,658 men and boys and strategically reached over 22 million people through awareness-raising, social media campaigns, radio and television shows, theatre and other forms of education-entertainment.

Preventing violence against young and adolescent girls through leadership and education strategies

14. Violence against children often goes unnoticed and unreported. Although both boys and girls are victims of violence, their experiences of and vulnerabilities to

violence differ.[4] The availability of data on violence against young and adolescent girls at the national level remains scarce. However, a recent study carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 42 countries found that the proportion of adolescent girls who reported experiencing some form of physical violence between the ages of 15 and 19 ranged from 4 per cent in Kazakhstan to more than 50 per cent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.[5] Up to 12 per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 in countries with available comparable data reported incidents of sexual violence during the previous year.[5]

15. Efforts by the Trust Fund to address this critical situation include programmes targeting young and adolescent girls in school and after-school settings, raising awareness of girls' rights among boys and girls, empowering girls through sports, leadership, capacity-building and sensitizing teachers and administrators. The Trust Fund is currently investing more than $9 million in this area to support 18 grants that address violence against young girls and adolescent girls.

16. Increasing knowledge and self-protection capabilities is crucial for effective violence-reduction initiatives. This was, therefore, a core component of many grantees' initiatives. Several placed particular emphasis on raising awareness among the young and focused on their potential to drive forward changes in social attitudes that will provide sustainable progress towards eliminating violence against women and girls. For example, one grantee, the Beijing Cultural Development Centre for Rural Women, finalized implementation of the three-year project to address violence against "left-behind" girls — girls abandoned in their villages by migrant parents — in Suizhou City, Hubei Province, China. Both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews indicated that the project had been effective in disseminating knowledge and increasing the capacity of "left-behind girls", their guardians and teachers. By the close of the project at the end of 2013, in total 500 local teachers, 5,000 students and 2,200 guardians participated in training and awareness-raising activities on preventing child abuse. Six resource centres were set up in communities, which led to creation of the first local non-governmental organization to offer services to young people and children, providing a platform for preventing sexual abuse to "left-behind" children.

17. In Malawi, with Trust Fund support, the civil society organization Concern Worldwide is implementing a programme to ensure a safe school environment free from violence and discrimination in 17 primary schools in Nsanje province. More than 6,800 girls and 7,200 boys are participating in Student Councils, peer-led spaces of reflection, to advocate for gender equality and ending violence against girls. The project has also involved more than 5,233 teachers in developing positive discipline policies. In addition to focusing on raising awareness and increasing knowledge, the programme will also seek to ensure that girls have responsive structures, where they can report abuse.

18. In Peru, more than 227 young people took part in leadership training developed by Trust Fund grantee, the Asociación de Comunicadores Sociales

[4] UNICEF, Innocenti Research Centre and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, *A Study on Violence against Girls: Report on the International Girl Child Conference*, 10 March 2009, The Hague, the Netherlands, 2009 (UNICEF, 2009).

[5] UNICEF, *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence against Children* (New York, September 2014). The study found that only 8 per cent of children worldwide live in countries that prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.

Calandria (Calandria Social Communicators' Association). The training implemented an intercultural and participatory programme involving Afro-descendant, Indigenous and Andean adolescent boys and girls. The project's greatest impact was in enhancing participants' self-esteem, self-confidence and communication skills. Trainees created a network and established a "gender agenda" with specific proposals to prevent violence against adolescent girls in their communities. In all three locations where the programme was implemented, networks of young people were formed. This strengthened their ability not only to make their voices heard, but also to have their views acted upon by local policymakers. Families reported that adolescent girls shared their new knowledge within the household and that the impact of the project positively influenced family dynamics. Among the most notable changes was girls' greater ability to plan and build a future for themselves in which marriage and motherhood were contemplated at a later age and the value of personal and/or professional development and contributing to the community was more highly regarded.

19. The Trust Fund-supported project implemented by the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo focuses on reducing the risk of domestic violence and early and forced marriage faced by women and girls from minority communities. The project primarily targets women and girls from Serb, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, but beneficiaries also include community-based groups, educational professionals, as well as boys and men.

20. The initial phase of the project, the first of its kind in Kosovo (under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)), is focusing on training activists from the targeted communities to act as community-based paralegals. After receiving training, paralegals have conducted 250 home visits and begun a programme of reaching out to more women through quarterly meetings in each municipality. In particular, the paralegals are active in raising awareness about women's rights and providing legal advice on issues related to divorce, child custody, adoption rights, property rights and social, medical and food assistance. In addition to gaining increased trust within communities, paralegals are also establishing synergies with other relevant stakeholders, including community police officers and representatives from the Centres for Social Welfare, which helped to facilitate the referral of victims/survivors.

Implementing laws and policies to respond to violence against women and girls

21. States have progressively put into place laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence against women. However, implementation in many countries remains slow. Implementation efforts that have had most success are those involving multisectoral strategies that include partnerships between Governments and civil society organizations; effective prevention systems and support services for survivors; adequate budgets; extensive data collection and analysis; specific timelines and targets; and strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (see A/69/222, para. 22). These elements are, therefore, critical in identifying initiatives that are likely to have greatest impact.

22. An effective holistic response strategy should not only criminalize violence against women and girls, but it must also provide preventative measures and support for survivors so that they can access justice (ibid., para. 10). The Trust Fund supports programmes that work to establish or to strengthen coordinated

multisectoral responses to violence against women and girls and facilitate women's and girls' enjoyment of their human rights.

23. In Colombia, Chile and El Salvador, a Trust Fund-supported project, implemented by the civil society organization, Sur Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación (Sur Corporación), is working with the police, one of the key actors in enforcing laws and policies to address violence against women and girls. Sur Corporación focused on addressing the need to strengthen police recording and follow-up of reports of violence against women through the implementation of an in-person and online course on policing and women's right to live in a city free of violence. In total these courses have engaged almost 700 police officers, enhancing their knowledge of the different types and modalities of violence against women.

24. From the start, the high level of commitment on the part of the various institutions was reflected in attendance, participation and engagement. The project has also fostered improved communication between the police and women's organizations in all three countries, helping to establish a common language and understanding of violence against women and girls. Comprehensive follow-up workshops provided an important space where representatives from the police and from women's organizations were able to identify critical aspects of procedures and protocols for preventing and addressing gender-based violence.

25. The Jordanian Women's Union implemented a three-year project supported by the Trust Fund, to formulate a regional holistic response to eliminate trafficking of women. The project was implemented in partnership with the Egyptian Centre for Women's Assistance and Union de l'Action Feminine (Union for Women's Action) in Morocco. In addition to the training of 35 organizations in providing services to trafficked women, shelters and hotlines were able to ensure that 388 survivors of trafficking were given access to psychosocial and legal support, with the overall objective of reintegration into their families and communities. More than 1,000 women in Egypt and Morocco participated in awareness-raising sessions on the risks associated with trafficking, including their rights under the law. These focused particularly on those living in areas targeted by traffickers, primarily in rural and poor communities.

26. Other key results of the project included establishing effective coordination and networking among partners and coalitions, including local and national non-governmental organizations and government and judicial and law enforcement representatives; the drafting of anti-trafficking model laws, which incorporated the definition of trafficking as specified in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children; and the training of 120 police officers, judges and prosecutors on trafficking as a human rights issue.

27. In Cabo Verde, more than 2,000 survivors of violence were reached in 2014 by a project implemented by Trust Fund grantee, the national institute of Cabo Verde for gender equality and equity (Instituto Caboverdiano para a Igualdade e Equidade de Género). Support centres for survivors were opened in Santiago, Fogo and Boavista and further centres are under discussion with the Ministry of Justice. In March, the project was featured by the Cabo Verde Music Awards, an important cultural event in the country. This was a significant step in ensuring wider publicity for issues of gender, gender-based violence and effective responses to intimate partner violence.

28. In Belarus, the Trust Fund supported a project run by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration to strengthen capacity to prevent and address intimate partner violence through the creation of multisectoral teams and the development of Cooperation Protocols. In addition, referral mechanisms were established in three pilot sites (Minsk; the Moskovskiy district of Brest City; and the Kobryn and Kamieniec districts of Brest oblast) to strengthen access to social and legal services for survivors of intimate partner violence. More than 3,700 callers have benefited from a nationwide toll-free hotline for domestic violence, staffed by five trained specialists who provide psychological, legal and social support.

29. In Grenada, the standard operating procedures for medical personnel and stakeholders were approved by the Cabinet in May 2014. These were developed by the Ministry of Social Development, a Trust Fund grantee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Pan-American Health Organization and were designed to facilitate the implementation of a multisectoral initiative to increase outreach to survivors and improve the quality of health and justice services.

30. The Albanian Network against Gender Violence and Trafficking, led by the Refleksione Association, piloted a multisectoral project aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of new legislation in Albania on domestic violence. By the end of the project, a referral mechanism for women experiencing domestic violence has been established not only in the 10 municipalities targeted by the project, but also in 12 others where the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Refleksione Association had initiated similar projects; that is, in a total of 22 of Albania's 65 municipalities. A network of 12 shelters and counselling centres was also established, to ensure the development and implementation of harmonized standards of services throughout Albania.

Advancing transitional justice and addressing violence against women and girls in emergency settings

31. In 2014, violence in conflict and post-conflict settings continued to garner international attention. In June, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, co-chaired the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Basic Standards of Best Practice on the Documentation of Sexual Violence as a Crime under International Law is a result of this initiative. A current Trust Fund grantee, Physicians for Human Rights, was instrumental in designing the Protocol.[6]

32. In addition, in June the Secretary-General issued a guidance note on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence that develops policy and operational guidance for United Nations action.[7] The note mentions that the Trust Fund has been a key resource for funding reparations for survivors of sexual violence in Sierra Leone.

[6] United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Basic Standards of Best Practice on the Documentation of Sexual Violence as a Crime under International Law* (London, June 2014).

[7] Available from http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/GuidanceNoteReparationsJune-2014.pdf.

33. Trust Fund grantee, the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health responded to the heightened need for services resulting from the escalating conflict in the Donetsk region, which continued to fuel increased instability and violence in the region. Nearly 300 state and non-governmental organization service providers engaged in training on responding to cases of violence against women, with a special focus on girls and young women living and working on the streets and HIV-positive women and girls. In addition, a protocol drafted by the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health was approved by members of a multisectoral working group, partner agencies and the Ministry of Social Policy.

34. A total of 306 survivors of violence against women — 117 in Kyiv and 189 in three up-scale cities — were identified, referred and received assistance. The number of clients receiving programme services rose to 329 and 176 survivors of gender-based violence, including HIV-positive and/or street-involved women and girls, were engaged in the empowerment training programme.

35. With support from the Trust Fund, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is implementing a project that seeks to address violence against women in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Sudan and Uganda. The project's goal is to advance gender justice in countries under investigation by the International Criminal Court. Working with a wide range of local partners, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice documentation data and advocacy directly contributed to the gathering of evidence that supported the prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes in nine cases relating to the four project countries. In 2014, the project reached 4,959 women and girls and 31,612 secondary beneficiaries across the target countries.

36. In Uganda, the Parliament adopted a landmark resolution calling for reparations for war-affected women and other victims of the Lord's Resistance Army. The resolution followed years of advocacy by the women's movement, including the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice and their partners. The resolution came at a crucial moment and helped to create greater momentum for gender justice.

37. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, local partners highlighted continued improvements in documentation, thanks to the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice project. The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice documentation was used to identify witnesses and directly contributed to the inclusion of additional charges of rape and sexual slavery of child soldiers in the International Criminal Court indictment of Bosco Ntaganda. This was the first time that a military leader had been indicted under international law for acts of sexual violence committed against child soldiers within his own militia.

38. Almost 774 survivors of gender-based violence who would otherwise not have had access to medical support were referred through the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice-supported Transit House project in North Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Survivors received an initial medical assessment and psychosocial support; 70 per cent went on to receive specific medical treatment, including surgery for rape-related injuries.

Integrating the private sector into prevention efforts

39. Globally, 53 per cent of women are employed in vulnerable jobs — either informal or unpaid — which can increase the risk of experiencing violence. This problem is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where more than 80 per cent of women are in this type of employment.[8] In addition, 79 countries still have laws that restrict the types of jobs women can perform.[9] A recent publication commissioned by the World Bank asserts that the private sector has been insufficiently involved in efforts to prevent and address violence against women. In order for this situation to change, workplaces need to adopt anti-harassment codes and guidelines to make the workplace a safe space for women and establish alliances with women's rights organizations.[10]

40. The Trust Fund invests in programmes that address these challenges and that aim to fully integrate the private sector as a key stakeholder in ending violence against women.

41. Trust Fund grantee CARE International in Cambodia helped to create safe workplaces and communities. Building on a successful initiative previously supported by the Trust Fund, the project is working to scale up effective participatory community and workplace interventions in the garment, tourism and hospitality industries to promote safer workplaces. The project continued to work with police, for example, building on its collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and training police focal points. It focused on initial engagement methods with garment factory workers to create effective policies within factories to reduce sexual harassment and gender-based violence and to ensure that workers can report abuse if it does occur. A curriculum for garment factory workers was developed for specific workplaces by adapting the International Labour Organization publication entitled *Equality and non-discrimination at work in Cambodia: Manual*. This was piloted with 71 garment factory workers and 87 hospitality workers. The Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia agreed to support CARE's efforts to end harassment at the workplace.

42. Trust Fund grantee the Fair Wear Foundation adopted a holistic approach, including awareness-raising and training, to address harassment and violence against women in export-orientated garment factories in Bangladesh and India. Over 3,500 workers in India and Bangladesh received direct training in 24 factories, while another 15,000 workers were trained via peer-to-peer education as part of the preventing workplace violence project. Twenty anti-harassment committees, composed of workers' representatives, factory management and non-governmental organization representatives, were operational in Bangladesh and India in 2014. The programme also completed supervisors' training in at least six factories, reaching 121 participants. Advanced training for anti-harassment committee members was conducted at nine factories reaching nearly 100 people — 82 women and 17 men.

43. One of the project's major achievements was the higher level of reporting of harassment cases in the anti-harassment committees and via a telephone helpline.

[8] UN-Women, *Progress of the World's Women 2011-2012: In Pursuit of Justice* (New York, 2011).

[9] World Bank, *Women, Business and the Law 2014: Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality — Key Findings* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014).

[10] Jennifer L. Solotaroff and Rohini Prabha Pande, *Violence against Women and Girls: Lessons from South Asia* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2014).

There are also signs that the initiative may be changing the way in which women are perceived within the factories. Since taking on the additional responsibility of participating in anti-harassment committees, women have become a more vocal presence on the factory floor. Whereas there were no women in supervisory positions in some of the factories at the beginning of the project, increasingly women have been promoted to supervisory roles.

IV. New partnerships in 2014

44. During the year, the Trust Fund strategically focused on expanding and diversifying its range of donors to ensure the sustainability, reliability and growth of its financial envelope. By fully harnessing the potential of new partnerships with the corporate sector and with an immediate focus on fashion and the arts, the Trust Fund was able to raise its visibility, extend its outreach and begin to build an individual giving portfolio. In September, in partnership with the Trust Fund, Yuwei Designs, a jewellery company based in the United States of America, launched an exclusive jewellery collection to raise awareness of the strategies pioneered by Trust Fund grantees to end violence against women and girls.

45. In November, in partnership with Music for Life International and the UN-Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Trust Fund hosted a benefit concert in India as part of the Scheherazade Initiative, a global concert project that brings together leaders in the artistic, musical, corporate and diplomatic communities to raise funds for and increase public awareness of violence against women and girls. The Delhi concert featured the Trust Fund grantee Breakthrough and included distinguished artists from the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

46. On 25 November, the Trust Fund launched a partnership with Soko, an ethical fashion brand. This partnership will provide employment and training for marginalized women artisans in Kenya to create a unique pair of bracelets. Every bracelet sold will help empower an underprivileged artisan community economically and, at the same time, support Trust Fund programmes to prevent and respond to violence against women around the world. We Are {The Collective}, a communications and marketing partnership based in London, conceptualized and developed the global microsite for the Soko bracelet campaign and galvanized support from the fashion sector in the United Kingdom.

47. The Trust Fund also launched a partnership with FASH UNITED, a California-based non-governmental organization, to promote the Trust Fund's initiatives through the fashion and entertainment sectors.

V. Eighteenth grant-making cycle

48. In 2014, the Trust Fund received 2,098 applications from 147 countries. Most applications were from civil society organizations and the total funding requested was more than $788 million. The Trust Fund awarded $8.3 million in 25 grants covering 23 countries and territories. Twenty-two civil society organizations, two Governments and the United Nations country team in Fiji received grants that all together are expected to reach over 730,000 primary beneficiaries by the end of 2018. In terms of grant value, 28 per cent of the funds allocated went to

programmes in Asia and the Pacific; 26 per cent to programmes in Africa; 14 per cent to programmes in Europe and Central Asia; 12 per cent to programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean; 11 per cent to programmes in the Arab States and North Africa; and 9 per cent to cross-regional programmes. Grants amounting to some 8 per cent of the total ($700,000) were awarded to eight small organizations (those requesting less than $100,000) as part of the Trust Fund's new strategy to increase funding to smaller grass-roots organizations.

49. Six new Trust Fund-supported programmes in the Gambia, Togo, the State of Palestine, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will address harmful practices. These covered a range of issues from legal initiatives to ban female genital mutilation/cutting in the Gambia to community-based initiatives to end widowhood rituals in Togo that put women at increased risk of HIV/AIDS.

50. New grantee programmes will also provide practical support to women and girls experiencing violence. For example, in Tajikistan, the civil society organization Najoti Kudakon will use community-based interventions to improve access to services for rural women living in mountainous areas. The programme will establish women's support groups in underserved communities and enhance the only existing safe house offering comprehensive services in the region.

51. Seven new grantees in Albania, Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, Serbia, Thailand and Zimbabwe will work to address and prevent violence against women who face discrimination and exclusion. For example, in Colombia, the Organización Nacional de Indígenas de Colombia (Indigenous Peoples National Organization) will document and research violence against indigenous women, raise awareness among the community and authorities, train indigenous women as rights advocates and provide psychocultural, social, legal and psychological support to indigenous women survivors of violence and their families.

52. Two new programmes will address violence against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women. For example, in Thailand, the Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand will implement a proven Community Life Competence model to empower communities in four provinces to address issues of human rights, violence, stigma and discrimination against lesbian and transgender women.

53. Five new programmes will bolster the implementation of laws and policies to address violence against women. Among them is the grantee in El Salvador, the Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (Cooperation for Peace Assembly), which will work to improve the coordination and institutional response of relevant stakeholders at the national and municipal levels and help local women's and youth organizations to develop their oversight and advocacy skills. The intervention will also seek to strengthen existing national data-collection mechanisms, improve police response and increase awareness of violence against women in schools and communities.

54. The Trust Fund will continue to support programmes in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings. Among the new grantees focusing on this issue is the Story Kitchen, a women's organization in Nepal, which will work towards ensuring access to justice for women survivors of violence in conflict. In an innovative approach, the programme will pair women conflict survivors with women human rights defenders to reach more survivors through local radio networks, as part of efforts to break the culture of silence around conflict-related violence against women.

55. Other new Trust Fund grantees will up-scale and implement innovative approaches for addressing violence against women. In Liberia, for example, the Episcopal Relief and Development, a faith-based organization, will catalyse Christian, interfaith and Muslim organizations to become agents of change, create awareness of violence against women and girls in their communities and transform beliefs and attitudes that legitimize and condone violence.

56. New grantees will also strengthen the capacities of journalists and the media to raise awareness of the scale of violence against women and girls. In the State of Palestine, the Community Media Centre will shed light on the pervasiveness of violence against women in Gaza and advocate for the creation of policies and procedures to protect women from violence.

VI. The way ahead

57. The year 2015 is a significant one for the Trust Fund and for global initiatives to prevent and end violence against women and girls. Almost 20 years after its creation, the Trust Fund will respond to the evolving context provided by the post-2015 development agenda in setting a new course for the coming years that is true to its founding vision and agreed commitments. As one of the structural causes of gender inequality, violence against women and girls is interrelated with all critical areas that are holding women and girls back — in the public or private sphere — and therefore must be addressed as such. To that end the Trust Fund will centre its efforts within this framework of intersectionality and the existing obligations of States under international and national law and focus on implementation at the national and local level.

58. The Trust Fund's strategy for 2015-2020 will focus on three core areas of work. Grant giving remains key and the Trust Fund will work to increase its grant giving portfolio in 2015 to $18 million, specifically targeting giving by the private sector and individual giving, as well as voluntary contributions by Member States.

59. The Trust Fund will aim to make an important contribution to evidence-based programming on violence against women and girls, by developing a knowledge management infrastructure that enables the unique body of knowledge and experience built up by Trust Fund grantees to be shared and to grow.

60. The Trust Fund will also focus on reversing the worldwide chronic underfunding of initiatives to address violence against women and girls by providing leadership in global advocacy and calling for a significant increase in global giving to this issue. The communications vehicle for this call will be the United Nations Trust Fund's global resource mobilization campaign which will be launched in March at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.